

January 27, 2005

Editor
Newsweek
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Dear Editor:

Liberal columnist Anna Quindlen has never made a secret about her desire for unrestricted abortions in America. However, she made very clear in her most recent column ("Connecting Up the Dots," Jan. 17) that she is willing to skew any statistics necessary to degradate a state that doesn't happen to agree with her on the subject.

The State of Mississippi, like many rural states and inner cities, has pockets of poverty. However, it is shocking that Ms. Quindlen seems to indicate that more abortions are the solution to Mississippi poverty. A human being's worth is certainly not determined by what type of economic background he or she comes from. Carrying Ms. Quindlen's frightening reasoning to its logical conclusion could only portend "means testing" requirements for families to have a baby. Mississippi, and states like it, should be applauded for

valuing human life regardless of age, gender, race or income.

Ms. Quindlen criticizes Mississippi for “enacting every restriction on abortion possible within the limits set by the Supreme Court” as if making abortions as rare as possible under the law is a bad goal. Quindlen goes on to expose her radical abortion position by questioning reasonable abortion restrictions that most Americans support: a 24 hour waiting period before an abortion, mandatory counseling and parental notification. It is abundantly clear that it is Anna Quindlen who is out of the American mainstream when it comes to this issue, not the State of Mississippi.

Mississippi has a growing economy, a wealth of natural resources, a rich arts and culture history and a people known for their charity and hospitality. And while Anna Quindlen may not appreciate it, I am proud that, in Mississippi, the phrase “quality of life” really means something.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour
Governor
State of Mississippi